GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:931
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
POWERS TO LOCAL BODIES
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of local bodies in the States is examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware that powers in this regard have not yet been delegated to the local bodies by the State Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have issued or propose to issue the directions to the State Governments to strengthen the local bodies and streamline the Panchayat Raj System; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d): Although local bodies is a State subject, after the passage of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, the Central Government has been reviewing the working of local bodies. From to time, the States/UTs have been urged by the Central Government to speed up the devolution of powers upon these bodies to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The issue of devolution of powers upon local bodies is a continuing one. States have devolved financial and functional powers upon local bodies in varying degrees after enactment of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

(e) to (f): The Central Government have been requesting the States/UTs to devolve more powers to Panchayats through high level meetings and through correspondence with the Chief Ministers, State Ministers and State Secretaries incharge of Panchayati Raj. The States/UTs have been requested to devolve adequate powers to Panchayats to enable them function as institutions of local self-government and to strengthen the Gram Sabha to ensure transparency and accountability in the functioning of Panchayats.We are planing to call a meeting of various political parties and Panchayati Raj Ministers to discuss devolution of powers.